

typically the same size or larger than the thickness of the membrane itself. This is illustrated by the photomicrograph attached to the Grot Declaration.

The Dahr '863 reference is devoid of any teaching of the solution-cast ionomer components presently required, much less the advantages flowing from these components. This deficiency is not cured by the secondary reference to Morse et al., noted in numbered section (6) of the Office Action. The present claims, particularly in view of the supporting Declaration, are accordingly considered to represent a novel and unobvious advance, and the issuance of a Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-9 is in order. Such action is earnestly solicited. A Request for a one-month Extension of Time to file the present Response is also enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosures

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